

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 4 and 13. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A flying head slider comprising:

a slider body;

a generally flat bottom surface defined on the slider body;

a front rail standing on the bottom surface at an upstream position so as to extend in a lateral direction of the slider body;

a front air bearing surface defined on a top surface of the front rail;

a rear rail standing on the bottom surface at a downstream position;

a rear air bearing surface defined on the rear rail;

a front surface defined on the front rail so as to stand on the bottom surface at a position distanced downstream from an upstream end of the bottom surface;

a step connected to an upstream end of the front air bearing surface on the front rail;

a first columnar piece standing on the bottom surface ~~along, and being integral~~
to the front surface; and

a second columnar piece standing on the bottom surface ~~along, the second~~
columnar piece being integral to the front surface so as to define an air clogging dish space adjacent the front surface in cooperation with the first columnar piece.

5. (Withdrawn) The flying head slider according to claim 4, wherein an upstream end of the bottom surface is defined along a first datum line extending in a lateral direction of the slider body, and an upstream end of the front air bearing surface is defined along a second datum line intersecting the first datum line at a predetermined inclined angle.

6. (Withdrawn) The flying head slider according to claim 5, wherein said front rail extends in the lateral direction of the slider body.

7. (Previously Presented) The flying head slider according to claim 4, wherein an upstream end of the bottom surface is defined along a first datum plane extending in a lateral direction of the slider body, and the front surface is defined along a second datum plane intersecting the first datum plane at a predetermined inclined angle.

8. (Previously Presented) The flying head slider according to claim 4, wherein an upstream end of the bottom surface is defined along a first datum plane extending in a lateral direction of the slider body,

the front surface includes a first surface and a second surface,

the first surface is defined along a second datum plane intersecting the first datum plane at a first inclined angle, and

the second surface is defined along a third datum plane intersecting the first datum plane at a second inclined angle.

9. (Previously Presented) The flying head slider according to claim 8, wherein the first inclined angle differs from the second inclined angle.

10. (Withdrawn) The flying head slider according to claim 4, wherein an upstream end of the bottom surface is defined along a first datum line extending in a lateral direction of the slider body,

the first columnar piece includes a first oblique plane connected to the front surface, the first oblique plane being defined along a second datum line intersecting the first datum line at a first inclined angle, and

the second columnar piece includes a second oblique plane connected to the front surface, the second oblique plane being defined along a third datum line intersecting the first datum line at a second inclined angle.

11. (Withdrawn) The flying head slider according to claim 10, wherein the air clogging dish space is defined by the front surface and the first and second oblique planes.

12. (Withdrawn) The flying head slider according to claim 10, wherein the first inclined angle is equal to the second inclined angle.

13. (Currently Amended) A flying head slider comprising:

- a slider body;
- a generally flat bottom surface defined on the slider body;
- a front rail standing on the bottom surface at an upstream position so as to extend in a lateral direction of the slider body;
- a front air bearing surface defined on a top surface of the front rail;
- a rear rail standing on the bottom surface at a downstream position;
- a rear air bearing surface defined on the rear rail;
- a front surface defined on the front rail, the front surface standing on the bottom surface and defining an upstream end of the front rail; and
- a recess formed on the front surface so as to define an air clogging dish space in front of the front rail.